



## STATE OF MICHIGAN

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### MDOT Disappoints Livingston County Once Again *Officials want the concerns of families and residents heard by MDOT*

LANSING – Livingston County residents fighting for safe roads have once again been ignored by Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Director Gloria Jeff and Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell, said today.

"Gov. Granholm told me during her budget presentation to the Senate Appropriations Committee in March, that her Five Year Road and Bridge Plan would be comparable to the one approved by Gov. John Engler," Garcia said. "I am very disappointed that she is straying from our discussion and breaking her commitment to ensuring that our roads are safe for all Michigan families, including those living in Livingston County."

Last week, MDOT announced that Director Jeff would be holding "Listening sessions" for members of the public, local elected officials and agencies to comment on the proposed Five Year Road and Bridge Plan. However, no sessions were scheduled within Garcia's district to provide the residents of Livingston County with the ability to comment on the roads plans deferred by the Preserve First plan.

In response to Jeff's listening schedule, Sen. Garcia, and Representatives Hune, R-Fowlerville, and Chris Ward, R-Brighton, sent a letter to Director Jeff on Friday, June 13, formally requesting that a "Listening session" for Livingston County residents be scheduled.

"I will continue to fight for the transportation dollars that Livingston County's residents expect and quite frankly deserve" said Rep. Joe Hune, R-Fowlerville. "It is unfortunate that some of the roads identified for activity in the previous Plan were stripped from the new proposed MDOT Five Year Plan. It is critical that we start to get a handle on our roads that have safety and problem areas before the overall situation becomes worse."

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Rep. Chris Ward, R-Brighton, added "I continue to hope that the Governor will reconsider her decision to indefinitely delay our much-needed road projects."

As an adjustment to the initial "listening" agenda, a "Listening session" was held yesterday at the Washtenaw County Road Commission that included discussions of Livingston County road conditions. Sen. Garcia and other elected officials received neither a formal invitation to attend the event, nor were they contacted by MDOT regarding the meeting. With such late notice that a meeting was to be held, local residents and officials were not afforded the opportunity to share their concerns regarding the road plans.

"At the meeting, I asked the Director's representative to convey several messages back to her," said Garcia. "The most important is that we want to communicate and work with her to resolve this issue."

A response from Director Jeff has yet to be received.